Bazaar Boxes
R L Carpenter
Dr Gannett

Boston, Massachusetts,
Tuesday Evg. Dec. 18, 1849.

My dear Sir,

I will not lose the opportunity, which tomorrow's Steamship gives, of writing you a few lines on ~~general~~ matters, in regard to which prompt information, at the very least, is due to you and all our kind & generous Bristol friends. I succeeded last week, after unusual delay & embarrassment, in getting eight cases of goods, from our English, Scotch, & Irish friends, through our Custom House. A recent order, from Zachary Taylor's new administration, positively forbidding any goods to be delivered, which are not accompanied with a full invoice of ~~the~~ the articles, with their cost. As none of our donations were thus fortified, the Collector said he must write to the Head of the Treasury Department at Washington for Special instructions. This was done; and we waited, day after day, for the answer. Not a little annoyed at this specimen of the prompt action of our new Reform!!! Government, I went with a friend on Wednesday last, & succeeded in getting from the Assistant Collector an order for the delivery of the box containing Mrs. Nichelli's model; and also a virtual promise that, if nothing was heard from Washington, in two days more, our goods should be got through in some way. I went immediately that day (Wednesday, 12th) & got the box. Its slant roof, & iron handle, and your

well known hand-writing on the direction-card, at-once identified the box to me. The Appraisers visited upon opening it; and we could not prevent them; they did so carefully, and I had the great pleasure of seeing that the model had come without ~~probably~~ (apparently) the least injury to any part. I expected to find it wrapped up in paper, cotton-batting, &c, but lo! the whole scene at once presented to our gaze! After a long look, ~~in~~ which the Custom-house officers seemed to enjoy as much as we did, the cover was replaced, and ~~the~~ my father's man bore it away. Since that, we have removed it from its box, & find only one figure displaced, ~~the~~ (a small ~~one~~ man), which had rolled under the board. We found also the plan, with sundry letters. We are having a glazed frame made for the model. I am astonished, that it should have come so well, notwithstanding the ingenious care with which it was packed; for it was carried from the Ship to the Customhouse stores by the Custmhouse truckmen, and, I suppose, upon a rough & jolting conveyance. (The Ship arrived, while I was absent from the city, on a lecturing tour in Barnstable County.) The Ladies have determined to adopt the suggestion of charging a small sum for the sight of the model. I fear that we shall not be able to get a price for it that will repay the pains & labour expended in its preparation, and transmission. But it is so curious & so pretty, & so well bears a close & long examination, that it will afford much amusement & excite much interest, I doubt not. You shall hear more, in due season.

On Friday last, I again went to the Custom house. Seven boxes had to be opened, examined from top to bottom & appraised (quite favorably). It was ~~then~~ too late, on getting the appraisement, to enter the goods at the Customhouse, & get the permit to ~~take~~ take them away. This was done early the next day, however, (Saturday last); I had the 7 cases removed forthwith to Faneuil Hall, where some half-dozen ladies were ~~at~~ waiting, in an ante-room, to receive them. The boxes were opened at once, and the work of examination, & marking of prices, ~~was~~ commenced, which lasted till dark and after. 5 P.M.-, was renewed yesterday, & completed at 2 P.M. this day; advertisements have been prepared for the Liberator, Standard, &c. and a Circular Note to be addressed to persons in the city & neighbourhood. Our Bazaar ladies are highly gratified by the beauty & value of these donations - truly noble, and giving such indisputable proof of long, assiduous, patient, laborious effort in behalf of the cause of 3 millions American Slaves. - A violent cold, which I took on Saturday, and which quite disabled me ~~from~~ for active service yesterday, prevented my seeing much of the contents of the boxes, as they were opened. But I heard the ladies admiring the water-colour drawings of Miss Carpenter, & Mr. Herbert Thomas, today. Next week I hope for a full inspection. I have given you all these particulars, knowing that you will feel an interest in them all, & will like to hear of all our proceedings. On Thursday, Friday & Saturday of this week, we expect to be occupied in the decoration & preparation of the Hall, and on Monday the Bazaar will open.

Have the kindness to say to Mr. Armstrong that I received his letter of Nov. 5. on the 5th Dec. It went to Leicester, after we had left L. & closed our house there for the winter, & came to Boston to spend a few months in my father's family, as we did last winter. Thence it came back to Boston, after I had gone into Barnstable Co., whither it was sent after me. Also please say to him that I have written to Mr. Gay, of the Standard, respecting the change in the address of the paper. Which I presume will be duly made.

Yrs & three recent letters (from yourself, Miss Carpenter, &c) I have probably left in my desk at the Antislavery office, & cannot now particularly acknowledge as to date, &c. Your little note, ~~by the Bristol boat~~ enclosed to Anne W. Weston, is before me - dated Nov. 22.- I had no idea, when writing to you for some Criminal Statistics, ~~as~~ that I should cause you so much trouble as I am sure I have done. The Tables you speak of, however, must be of great value, and I sh prize them very highly; they will be of eminent service to and I think, in that view, you will not grudge the t & pains you have expended; but I should not have a the favour, had I anticipated the consequences to you - We have a sad Criminal case now before us - unex ampled, I may say, in our community, - the (probable murder of Dr. George Parkman, brother of Rev. Dr. F. P., physician formerly, a man of large wealth, in a mar most revolting - & the supposed murderer, Dr. John W Webster, Professor of Chemistry at Cambridge for nearly years, and long one of the regular Lecturers at the Med College in this City. The particulars, so far as known, yo will find well stated in E. Quincy's letter to the Stan of last week. Our whole community has been agitate in a most painful manner

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I have twice or thrice seen Mr. Rufus Carpenter, and had a little conversation with him; for the first time last Friday A.M. when he called at the Anti Slavery office; & I met him that eveg. at Dr. Gannett's house, by appointment, for a little private conversation. We had not much time left to us. I found that some of our Unitarian ministers had not failed to tell him stories - most disingenuously as I think - to the detriment of the Anti Slavery cause, & he urged these things against us. The substance of the difficulty was that Mr. Pillsbury had said at Bridgewater (in this State) that the last persons to aid the Anti Slavery cause, the last persons to whom a fugitive slave would go, are the ministers! Of course Mr. P. meant to state a general fact, & not to deny that there are some exceptions. That it is the fact, in the main, is susceptible of the fullest demonstration. Mr. Carpenter has much to learn of our American Churches & Ministers - I speak not of the Unitarians merely - they are as a drop in the bucket, but still their influence is something, - much for so small a body - & it does not go, in the general & in the main, against Slavery; no! indeed, but against the Abolitionists, & against all means to elevate the colored people, & give them a chance to rise in the social scale. In Boston, the colored people are now struggling for equal school-rights! for an equal chance at an education in the common schools! & they cannot get it!! and amongst their most vehement & determined opposers are the City Ministers. A Unitarian minister, Dr. Andrew Bigelow, - (brother-in-law to Abbott Lawrence, now U. S. minister at your Court) wrote a Report adverse to their rights & wishes, a report in which certain facts, as to the operation of equal schools elsewhere, were grossly perverted, whether through

ignorance or design I know not – either way the Report dishonors him & the Body which adopted it – the Boston School Committee. One or two ministers, perhaps, have encouraged the aided colored people in their movement for their manifest rights; but the overwhelming majority have looked on with a chilling indifference, or with positive opposition. Mr. Carpenter has staid much with Dr. Gannett – and is now staying with Mr Ellis at Charlestown; from neither of these gentlemen ~~did~~ will he hear anything favorable to the Anti Slavery movement proper; he will very likely hear some talk of the evils of Slavery – it is too late in the day to hold Mr. Gannett's quondam opinion that Silence is the Mission & duty of the North touching Slavery – but for any Antislavery sentiment or action, truly hearty & proposing any action, there will be none of it. I am was glad to hear him say, today, that he proposes a short visit to Rev. E. B. Hall of Providence. He will get into a fairer & better atmosphere in that gentleman's family.

Your letter to Dr. Howe I sent to him at once; but as yet have nothing from him. Do not, if you please, send the proposed parcel of Parliamentary documents to N. York. To Boston, to my father's care, by some ship from Bristol or Liverpool, will be the best way.

I have also before me now Mrs. Michell's letter to Miss Weston, with your Postscript, which Miss W. sends me for the aid it would afford in getting the glass-case made. Mrs. M. may be assured that her best wishes as to the safe transmission of her beautiful model have been realized; and that it will undoubtedly prove a great attraction to the Visitors of the Bazaar.

I wish I had time to tell you of an Anti-Slavery talk I had with Dr. Gannett, 3 or 4 weeks since, when I had called at his house in search of Mr. Carpenter. He defended the invitation, extended last Spring, by the Boston Unitarians, to Rev. Theodore Clapp of New Orleans, (he who said, "here we see Almighty God dealing in Slaves") to come to their religious anniversaries; & said that (though he was opposed to sending any invitations of the kind) he would as soon invite Mr. Clapp as any minister in the State of New York - meaning that his Slave-trading sentiments were no barrier to his reception as a Christian minister & brother; & said he could readily conceive how a man, brought up as Mr. C. had been, would take that view of God's relation to Slavery. I was moved to tell Dr. Gannett, with some earnestness, that I protested against his sentiments in the name of humanity & religion, & against the position in which he stood, when he might (if he pleased) have ~~affected~~ influenced the whole Unit[n]. body to a high & effective anti-slavery action, and I warned him (in so many words) to quit that position. This he seemed to think the height of audacity on my part - but I told him I was thankful that I had had the strength given me to speak to him plainly, for I thought him very guilty. He said some very hard things to me - personally - which I have repeated to no one, for he retracted the most offensive; - & five days ago he wrote me a very polite note, in brotherly terms, inviting me to take tea at his house with R. L. C. - I care not what American or English Unitarian ministers may say - God is on the side of the Anti-Slavery cause; his truth

his commandments, the religion of his Son, are all pledged to him who contends for the oppressed, the outcast, the injured, the "man who has fallen among thieves", and they are all against the men, no matter how reverend their titles, who ally themselves with the oppressors, the unjust, the robbers, the murderers the slave traders & the slaveholders. "The publicans and the harlots" will learn this, believe it, and carry it forward to a glorious consummation before the Scribes & Pharisees, the Doctors of Divinity and the great religious authorities of this land will understand it, or lift a finger to aid. They are busy in defending their Sabbath day from desecration. Were Jesus on earth now, they would raise the cry vile thrust again, "This man is not of God, because he keepeth not the Sabbath-day". "Blind leaders of the blind" they are; Jesus has foretold their fate! - Do not understand me to say there are no exceptions to this. But "the exceptions prove the rule"; otherwise, they would be exceptions.

My children were delighted with the little doll toy which your daughter sent them; and many old child have looked at it with much pleasure. Many thanks to her for her kind attention. 'Tis very pleasant to know that this friendly tie across the great waters with you all, and to feel that a sympathy exists there for us, too often denied to us at home. - But all shall yet be well. Never despair.

With earnest thanks & respects to all my Bristol friends. I am, Yours, Sam'l May, Jr.